

**JULY 2014**



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SAVE TIME – MAKE AN APPOINTMENT WITH FSA

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## Sonoma-Marín County FSA Updates

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### Sonoma/Marin County FSA Office

#### **NEW ADDRESS!!!**

5401 Old Redwood Hwy, Ste  
100 Petaluma, CA 94954

Phone: 707-664-8593  
Fax: 707-794-7902

**County Executive Director:**  
Lisa V. Velasquez

**Farm Loan Officer:**  
Karri Bartolomei

**Program Technician:**

Cecilia Medina

### 2014 ACREAGE REPORTING DATES

In order to comply with FSA program eligibility requirements, all producers are encouraged to visit the Sonoma-Marín County FSA office to file an accurate crop certification report by the applicable deadline.

The following acreage reporting dates are applicable for Sonoma/Marin County:

July 15, 2014: 5/31)	Spring Oats, Potatoes(planted 4/21-
	Spring Wheat, all other crops
September 15, 2014:	Potatoes(planted 6/11-8/1)
	Strawberries(planted 6/15-8/15)
December 15, 2014:	Perennial Forage, Fall Wheat, Mint
	Potatoes(planted 8/2-9/15)

Michelle Staub

The following exceptions apply to the above acreage reporting dates:

**Next County Committee**

**Meeting:** July 15 at 10:00 am

If the crop has not been planted by the above acreage reporting date, then the acreage must be reported no later than 15 calendar days after planting is completed.

If a producer acquires additional acreage after the above acreage reporting date, then the acreage must be reported no later than 30 calendar days after purchase or acquiring the lease. Appropriate documentation must be provided to the county office.

If a perennial forage crop is reported with the intended use of "cover only," "green manure," "left standing," or "seed," then the acreage must be reported by July 15th.

Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) policy holders should note that the acreage reporting date for NAP covered crops is the earlier of the dates listed above or 15 calendar days before grazing or harvesting of the crop begins

For questions regarding crop certification and crop loss reports, please contact the Sonoma-Marin County FSA office at 707-664-8593

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## **COC NOMINATION DEADLINE**

The election of agricultural producers to Farm Service Agency (FSA) county committees is important to farmers and ranchers. It is crucial that every eligible producer participate in these elections because FSA county committees are a link between the agricultural community and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

County committee members are a critical component of the operations of FSA. They help deliver FSA farm programs at the local level. Farmers and ranchers who serve on county committees help with the decisions necessary to administer the programs in their counties. They work to ensure FSA agricultural programs serve the needs of local producers.

FSA county committees operate within official regulations designed to carry out federal laws. County committee members apply their judgment and knowledge to make local decisions.

The COC nomination period runs from June 17, 2014 through August 1, 2014. The nomination form is available at USDA Service Centers and [online](#). For more information contact your local FSA office.

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## **2012 & 2013 ELAP LOSSES MUST BE FILED BY AUG. 1, 2014 FOR HONEYBEE, LIVESTOCK AND FARM-RAISED FISH LOSSES**

Producers who suffered eligible livestock, honeybee or farm-raised fish losses have until August 1, 2014, to submit a notice of loss and application for payment under the Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees

and Farm-raised Fish Program (ELAP).

ELAP provides emergency assistance to eligible producers of livestock, honeybees and farm-raised fish that have losses due to disease, adverse weather, or other conditions, such as blizzards and wildfires. ELAP assistance is provided for losses not covered by the Livestock Forage Program (LFP) and Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP). Producers who suffered eligible livestock, honeybee or farm-raised fish losses during 2012 and 2013 program years must submit a notice of loss and application for payment to their local FSA office by August 1, 2014. **For 2014 program year losses, the notice of loss and an application for payment must be submitted by November 1, 2014 (Water Hauling coverage requires a \* D3 Designation) (\*more information in next article)**

For more information, producers can review the ELAP Fact Sheet on the [Farm Bill webpage](#). Producers are encouraged to make an appointment with their local FSA office to apply for these programs.

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## LIVESTOCK DISASTER ASSISTANCE SIGN-UP UNDERWAY

Livestock disaster program enrollment opened on April 15, 2014. These disaster programs are authorized by the 2014 Farm Bill as permanent programs and provide retroactive authority to cover losses that occurred on or after Oct. 1, 2011.

Eligible producers can sign-up for the following livestock disaster assistance programs:

### **Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP):**

LFP provides compensation to eligible livestock producers that have suffered grazing losses due to drought on privately owned or cash leased land or fire on federally managed land. Eligible producers must physically be located in a county affected by a qualifying drought during the normal grazing period for the county. Producers who suffered eligible grazing losses should submit a completed CCC-853 and supporting documentation by January 30, 2015. Sonoma and Marin Counties became eligible in 2013 on June 25th, 2013, and became eligible in 2014 on January 14, 2014. Inventory numbers near the eligibility dates are needed as well as sold animals due to the drought in 2013 and 2014. Sold animals in 2012 will also be considered.

### **Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP):**

LIP provides compensation to eligible livestock producers that have suffered livestock death losses in excess of normal mortality due to adverse weather and attacks by animals reintroduced into the wild by the federal government or protected by federal law. Producers who suffered livestock death losses should submit a notice of loss and an application for payment to their local FSA office by January 30, 2015. *Only deaths by anthrax is authorized under drought conditions.* **Specific documentation is required to support animal deaths, please call for details on documentation.**

### **Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP)**

ELAP provides emergency assistance to eligible producers of livestock, honeybees and farm-raised fish that have losses due to disease, adverse weather, or other conditions, such as blizzards and wildfires. ELAP assistance is provided for losses not covered by LFP and LIP, such as **\* water hauling under D3 designation.** Producers who suffered eligible livestock, honeybee or farm-raised fish losses during 2012 and 2013 program years must submit a notice of loss and application for payment to their local FSA office by August 1, 2014. **For 2014 program year losses, the notice of loss and an application for payment must be submitted by November 1, 2014.**

**\* WATER HAULING** {Both Sonoma and Marin Counties for 2014 were designated D3. However, for 2012 / 2013 program year was designated a D2, therefore Sonoma and Marin Counties are not eligible for water hauling in 2012 / 2013. }

For more information, producers can review the LFP, LIP and ELAP Fact Sheets on the [Farm Bill webpage](#). Producers are encouraged to make an appointment with their local FSA office to apply for these programs.

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## FILING FOR 2014 NAP LOSSES - IMPORTANT!!!!!!!!!!

The CCC-576, Notice of Loss, is used to report failed acreage and prevented planting and may be completed by any producer with an interest in the crop. **Timely filing a Notice of Loss is required for all crops including grasses.** For losses on crops covered by the Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) and crop insurance, you must file a CCC-576, Notice of Loss, in the FSA County Office within 15 days of the occurrence of the disaster or when losses become apparent.

If filing for prevented planting, an acreage report and CCC-576 must be filed within 15 calendar days of the final planting date for the crop. **To ensure timely filed Notice Of Loss, do so before September 30, 2014.**

Notice of Losses can be filed by email, fax, or telephone call. Phone- 707-664-8593, Fax 707-794-7902, email to [lisa.velasquez@ca.usda.gov](mailto:lisa.velasquez@ca.usda.gov) or [ana.medina@ca.usda.gov](mailto:ana.medina@ca.usda.gov).

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## SAVE TIME – MAKE AN APPOINTMENT WITH FSA

As we roll out the Farm Bill programs administered by FSA, there will be related signups and in some cases multiple management decisions that need to be made by you, the producer, in consult with FSA staff. To insure maximum use of your time and to insure that you are afforded our full attention to your important business needs, please call our office ahead of your visit to set an appointment and to discuss any records or documentation that you may need to have with you when you arrive for your appointment. For local FSA Service Center contact information, please visit: <http://offices.sc.egov.usda.gov/locator/app>.

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USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer. To file a complaint of discrimination, write: USDA, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Ave., SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (866) 632-9992 (Toll-free Customer Service), (800) 877-8339 (Local or Federal relay), (866) 377-8642 (Relay voice users).